MARC J. GROSS, ESQ. (02009-1991)

# FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

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ROYAL HERITAGE HOME,LLC.

Plaintiff,

٧.

SELECTIVE BENEFITS GROUP and ANDREW BLUESTONE,

Defendants.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY DOCKET NO. BER L 5934-19

Civil Action

# AMENDED COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff, Royal Heritage Home, LLC. ("RHH"), having an address at 45 West 36<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York, 10018 by way of Complaint against defendants Selective Benefits Group ("Selective") Andrew Bluestone ("Bluestone"), alleges as follows:

#### THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff RHH, is a Delaware corporation with its principle place of business at 45 West 36<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York, 10018.
- 2. Upon information and belief, defendant Selective is a New Jersey Corporation with its principle place of business at 50 Hart Street, Ramsey, New Jersey, 07446.
- 3. Upon information and belief, Bluestone is the Owner of Selective, resides in Essex County, New Jersey and conducts business in New Jersey.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 4. In or about December 2014, Selective entered into an agreement with RHH (the "Agreement") for Selective to provide services relating to RHH's non-qualified retirement plans for certain key RHH employees from the Principal Financial (the "Plan").
- 5. In connection with selling the Plan, Bluestone made representations to RHH's Chief Executive Officer that the Plan would include a life insurance policy on a particular RHH employee to be funded 100% from employee contributions to the Plan.
- 6. Bluestone and his staff represented that the total cost to RHH for the Plan would be limited to \$2,500.
- 7. Although Defendants now contend that the \$2,500 cost was simply an "administrative fee" and not the representative of the entirety of sums to be paid, and they refer to a "Request for Information" and a "Non qualified Plan Service and Expense Agreement", neither document specifies the amount of any fees.
- 8. To the extent Defendants contend that RHH was aware of an \$85,000 life insurance premium, Defendants provided RHH only with a signature page of a document for execution in or about March of 2015, and continued to represent that any fee due from RHH would be limited to \$2,500.
- 9. Thus, RHH performed under the Agreement by causing certain payroll contributions of its employees to be directed to the Plan.
- 10. Unfortunately, notwithstanding Bluestone's representations, RHH discovered in 2018 that the Plan was not fully funded, resulting in a shortfall of benefits in an amount not less than \$72,674.

- 11. Thus, despite their representations, and upon information and belief, Selective and Bluestone have engaged in a scam to collect commissions and unlawfully enrich themselves on an underfunded plan to the detriment of RHH without informing RHH of the true costs and expenses of the Plan.
- 12. Accordingly, RHH brings this action against Selective and Bluestone to stop their scam and to recover damages.

#### FIRST COUNT

- 13. RHH incorporates the allegations contained in Paragraph 1-9 above as if set forth herein at length.
- 14. Bluestone and Selective committed unconscionable commercial practices in violation of the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq. (the "Act") by and through their misrepresentations to RHH concerning the Plan.
- 15. As a direct and proximate result of Bluestone's and Selective's consumer fraud, in violation of the Act, RHH has suffered and continues to suffer irreparable harm and damages.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Royal Heritage Home, Inc. demands judgment against defendants Selective Benefits Group and Andrew Bluestone, jointly and severally, for the entry of a permanent injunction to forbid Selective and Bluestone from selling or offering the Plan for sale, for treble damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs of suit and for such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

### **SECOND COUNT**

16. RHH incorporates the allegations of the First count of its Complaint as if set forth herein at length.

- 17. In or about December, 2014, Selective and Bluestone made representations to RHH that Selective had a present intention to adequately provide the Plan to RHH and that RHH's costs would be limited to \$2,500.
- 18. At all relevant times when making such representations, Selective and Bluestone knew or should have known that the representations were false, and their representations were misrepresentations of fact, made with the intent to deceive RHH and induce it to enter the Agreement.
- 19. RHH relied on Selective's misrepresentations by selecting the Plan, entering into the Agreement and directing employee contributions to Selective.
- 20. Notwithstanding Selective's and Bluestone's representations, RHH discovered that the Plan was not fully funded, resulting in a shortfall of not less then \$72,674.
- 21. As a direct and proximate result of Selective's and Bluestone's intentional misrepresentations, RHH has suffered and continues to suffer damages.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Royal Heritage Home, Inc. demands judgment against defendants Selective Benefits Group and Andrew Bluestone, jointly and severally, for the entry of a permanent injunction to forbid Selective and Bluestone from selling or offering the Plan for sale, for compensatory and punitive damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs of suit and for such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

#### THIRD COUNT

- 22. RHH incorporates the allegations of the First and Second Counts of its Complaint as if set forth herein at length.
- 23. As a direct and proximate result of the negligent misrepresentation of Selective and Bluestone, as set forth above, RHH has suffered and continues to suffer damages.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Royal Heritage Home, Inc. demands judgment against defendants Selective Benefits Group and Andrew Bluestone, jointly and severally, for the entry of a permanent injunction to forbid Selective and Bluestone from selling or offering the Plan for sale, for compensatory damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs of suit and for such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

#### **FOURTH COUNT**

- 24. RHH incorporates the allegations of the First through Third Counts of its Complaint as if set forth herein at length.
- 25. There is due and owing from Selective to RHH no less than the sum of \$72,674, which Selective and/or Bluestone agreed to pay.
- 26. Notwithstanding RHH's demands, Selective has failed and refused to pay amounts owed.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Royal Heritage Home, Inc. demands judgment against defendants Selective Benefits Group and Andrew Bluestone, jointly and severally, for the entry of a permanent injunction to forbid Selective and Bluestone from selling or offering the Plan for sale, for compensatory damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs of suit and for such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

## **FIFTH COUNT**

- 27. RHH incorporates the allegations of the First through Fourth Counts of its Complaint as if set forth herein at length.
- 28. Selective, being indebted to RHH in the sum of no less than \$72,674, plus late fees, attorneys' fees and additional interest, upon an account stated between the parties.
  - 29. There is due and owing from Selective to RHH the sum of no less than \$72,674.

30. Notwithstanding RHH's demands, Selective has failed and refused to pay amounts owed.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Royal Heritage Home, Inc. demands judgment against defendants Selective Benefits Group and Andrew Bluestone, jointly and severally, for the entry of a permanent injunction to forbid Selective and Bluestone from selling or offering the Plan for sale, for compensatory damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs of suit and for such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

#### SIXTH COUNT

- 31. RHH incorporates the allegations of the First through Fifth Counts of its Complaint as if set forth herein at length.
- 32. Selective acted in a willful and wanton manner, and otherwise acted in bad faith relating to the Agreement, constituting a breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing.
- 33. As a direct and proximate result of Selective's breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing, RHH has suffered and continues to suffer damages.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Royal Heritage Home, Inc. demands judgment against defendants Selective Benefits Group and Andrew Bluestone, jointly and severally, for the entry of a permanent injunction to forbid Selective and Bluestone from selling or offering the Plan for sale, for compensatory damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs of suit and for such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

#### **SEVENTH COUNT**

27. RHH incorporates the allegations of the First through Sixth Counts of its Complaint as if set forth herein at length.

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As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, including their receipt of premium 28.

payments and/or commissions relating thereto, Selective and Bluestone have been unjustly

enriched.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Royal Heritage Home, Inc. demands judgment against

defendants Selective Benefits Group and Andrew Bluestone, jointly and severally, for the entry of

a permanent injunction to forbid Selective and Bluestone from selling or offering the Plan for sale,

for compensatory and punitive damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs of suit and for such other

relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

By: /s/ Marc J. Gross

MARC J. GROSS, ESQ.

Dated: September 3, 2019

**JURY DEMAND** 

Plaintiff Royal Heritage Home, Inc. hereby demands a trial by jury as to all issues so

triable.

FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Dated: September 3, 2019

By: /s/ Marc J. Gross

MARC J. GROSS

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**DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL** 

Pursuant to R. 4:25-4, Marc J. Gross, Esq. is hereby designated as trial counsel in this

matter.

FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

By: /s/ Marc J. Gross

MARC J. GROSS, ESQ.

Dated: September 3, 2019

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE 4:5-1** 

I hereby certify that the matter in controversy is not currently the subject of any other action

pending in any Court and is, likewise, not the subject of any pending arbitration proceeding. I

further certify there is no action or arbitration proceeding contemplated regarding the subject of

this action, and that I am not aware of any other parties who should be joined in this action.

FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

By: <u>/s/ Marc J. Gross</u>

MARC J. GROSS, ESQ.

Dated: September 3, 2019

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**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO R. 4:5-1(B)(3)** 

I certify that confidential personal identifiers have been redacted from documents submitted to the court, and will be redacted from all documents submitted in the future in accordance with Rule 1:38-7(b).

FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

By: /s/ Marc J. Gross

MARC J. GROSS, ESQ.

Dated: September 3, 2019